



The  
**River City**  
**Caver**

Newsletter of the *River City*  
*Grotto* – Jacksonville, FL  
An [NSS](#) Affiliated Grotto

June, 2017

[www.rivercitygrotto.com/](http://www.rivercitygrotto.com/)

Updates from the latest Grotto Meeting and Events –  
NEXT MEETING: **WEDNESDAY** July, 19<sup>th</sup> 2017, at R.E.I. in the St. John's Town Center

### UPCOMING TRIPS

**Ocala Caverns Trip and Clean-Up Day:** There will be a cave trip and clean up day at Ocala Caverns on 7/1/17 and 8/19/17. We will explore the cave as well as trim foliage and clean up trash.

**Vertical Practice:** David and Katie will host a vertical practice/potluck on 7/8/17 at 9 am.

**Rock Climbing:** RCG is planning a trip to The Edge Rock Gym for rock climbing on a Friday night. The date is TBD.

**Rainbow River:** RCG is planning a possible trip to Rainbow River; we may do a cave trip the same day.

### TRIP REPORTS

**Bat Cave:** Phil Walker led a group of Boy Scouts through Bat Cave. He reported that the water level was low.

### FINANCIAL UPDATE

We are solid financially.

### MEMBERSHIP UPDATE

We have one member who has rejoined the grotto!

### NSS CORNER

**The Virtual Cave-Sea Caves:** Carved by the power of oceans, sea caves may be gentle or treacherous to explore. Found along coasts throughout the world, they can get surprisingly large. Find out about them on the Sea Cave page. ([article](#)).

### SCCi CORNER

*Amber Lehmann*  
*SCCi Marketing Manager*

On Friday, April 21 2017, we announced the purchase of the Daleo Entrance to the Roppel section of Mammoth Cave, the longest cave system in the world. The land surrounding the entrance, now named the Elroy and Marilyn Daleo Cave Preserve, is one mile east of Mammoth Cave National Park and protects 88 acres of classic karst on the Mammoth Cave Plateau.

The Daleo Entrance is now the only entrance to the Mammoth Cave system outside the national park owned by a conservation organization. The preserve includes a number of caves, most notably the Daleo Entrance to the Roppel section of Mammoth Cave. The Daleo entrance is a significant portal into much of the cave system, and its acquisition is important in the overall goal of protecting the unique resources of the longest cave on earth. "With this acquisition, SCCi continues its mission of protecting significant caves in the southeast United States," said SCCi Board Chair, Brian Krebs. "Now, the Daleo Entrance to the Roppel section of Mammoth Cave will be protected forever and accessible for recreational caving and scientific exploration. It is with great pride we announce this purchase and look forward to working with the broader cave conservation community of Kentucky."

SCCi would like to recognize the National Speleological Society (NSS) for its gift of \$5,000 toward the purchase of the Elroy and Marilyn Daleo Cave Preserve. The NSS is a non-profit organization dedicated to the exploration, study, and protection of caves and their environments, and foster fellowship among cavers.

Those interested in supporting the Elroy and Marilyn Daleo Cave Preserve acquisition and stewardship, can do so here: <http://scci.org/daleo>. As part of National Park Week, SCCi held a formal announcement at the Mammoth Cave National Park Visitor's Center. The Cave Research Foundation (CRF) hosted a reception and meet & greet with SCCi following the announcement.



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### **CAVING IN THE NEWS**

**Cave Dragons Exist—And Saving Them Could Be Key to Protecting Drinking Water:** Cave Dragons face increasing threats of pollution from agricultural runoff. New DNA techniques are letting researchers track down the largest, strangest cave animals in the world in order to save them. ([article](#))

**Acoustic Scientist Sounds Off About the Location of Cave Paintings:** Cave painting sites may have been chosen for their acoustics. ([article](#))